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TV SERIES

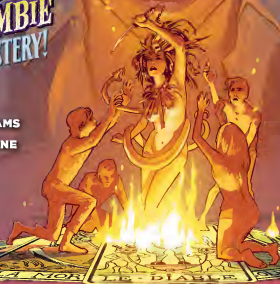
★ NATIONAL COMICS ★

#1  
ONE-SHOT

# Madame X

A  
**VOODOO  
ZOMBIE  
MYSTERY!**

ROB  
WILLIAMS  
TREVOR  
HAIRSINE



DEC. 2002

MAILED T  
1578

dc.comics.com



THE MAJOR ARCANA (GRATER SECRETS) DECK OF TAROT CONTAINS 22 CARDS AND IS BELIEVED TO BE DERIVED FROM THE EGYPTIAN BOOK OF THOTH

THIS ANCIENT TOMBS CONTAINED MAGICAL SPELLS, STORY BOOKS, THE EGYPTIAN PHARAOH NEPERKAPTAN CAPTURED IT AND, AS A RESULT, THE GODS KILLED HIS WIFE AND SON.

THEN NEPERKAPTAN COMMITTED SUICIDE FROM LONELINESS WHICH KIND OF SENT A MESSAGE

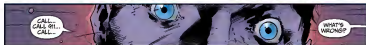
THE GODS' KNOWLEDGE IS NOT FOR MAN TO KNOW

PENTAC



*GARDEN DISTRICT, UPTOWN NEW ORLEANS.*







HELLYEA HOUSE. I'VE ALWAYS  
WANTED TO LIVE IN THE  
GARDEN DISTRICT.

THEN I GUESS YOU'D  
BEST PLAY QUARTERBACK  
FOR THE SAINTS, OR RUN FOR  
MAYOR, LIKE THE GODFATHER.  
RUSTBONES, AMI-WOODCOO  
CRUMLIN, COUNCILMAN  
MEACHUM HERE.

YEAH, YEAH.  
I'VE SEEN THE  
NEWS TON. FRONT  
DOOR'S OPEN.

THE NEXT MORNING...



POSSIBLE  
MUR AT COUNCILMAN  
MEACHUM'S PROPERTY.  
INVESTIGATING...

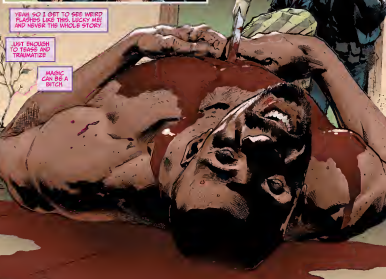


DAMN.

YEAH, SO I GOT TO SEE WEIRD  
PLACES LIKE THIS. LUCKY ME!  
AND NEVER THE WHOLE STORY.

JUST ENOUGH  
TO TEASE AND  
TRAUMATIZE.

MAGIC  
CAN BE A  
BITCH.





I DON'T BELIEVE IN ZOMBIES  
BUT WHATEVER THAT WAS...  
IT HADN'T HAPPENED YET

I  
CAN STILL  
WARN...



ANNY...

...THERE'S  
MORE...

WHAT THE  
HELL IS...



SISTER...



"...IN  
DARKNESS."



VILLAGE QUARTER, NEW ORLEANS.

THE OFFICES OF LYNN LAW.

SEE,  
THIS IS THE  
THING I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
ABOUT YOU,  
MAM.

IF YOU CAN REALLY PREDICT  
THE FUTURE, THEN AS NOW COME  
YOU DON'T SPEND ALL DAY AT THE  
TRACK BETTING WILD, AND BE  
MORE PERTINENT TO  
NOW...

HOW COME  
YOU'RE CURRENTLY  
WEARING HALF YOUR  
MORNING LATTER GUESS?  
YOU DIDN'T SEE THAT  
300-LB SAMOAN  
DELIVERY MAN  
COMING?

UNBELIEVABLE.







MAY I  
INTRODUCE MS. LAUREN  
SOUCOFF, CURRENTLY OWNER  
OF THE SOBRIGUET "VOODOO"  
QUEEN OF NEW  
ORLEANS?

IS MY  
APPEARANCE SO  
SHOCKING AS TO  
CAUSE SUCH A  
REACTION?



NO... I - I  
THINK I'VE SEEN  
YOU BEFORE  
IS ALL.

WHO  
MIGHT? MS.  
SOUCOFF HERE'S  
BEEN GETTING  
A LOT OF TV NEWS  
COVERAGE AND PAPER  
PUBLICITY LATELY.  
MUCH OF IT  
BAD.



I DID NOT  
COME HERE  
TO BE JUDGED  
THAT MAY BE  
COMING SOON  
ENOUGH.

THEN  
WHY DID YOU  
COME HERE?



BECAUSE YOU  
WILL DEFEND ME. AT  
SOME POINT TODAY I WILL  
BE ARRESTED FOR THE  
MURDER OF COUNCILMAN  
SEN HEDGEM.

A CRIME  
OF WHICH I AM  
COMPLETELY  
INNOCENT.



"WE WILL DEFEND YOU,"  
MR. GOLDCUPP, I'M AFRAID I  
HAVEN'T DECIDED YET IF THE  
CASE IS APPROPRIATE FOR MY  
FIRM. SO, IN A SENSE, YOU  
ARE BEING JUDGED  
HERE.

TELL ME,  
PLEASE, IN YOUR  
OWN WORDS, WHY  
YOU BELIEVE THE  
POLICE WILL  
COME FOR  
YOU.

I  
THREATENED  
HIS LIFE  
PUBLICLY.



I  
CURSED  
HIM.

I SAID  
HELL, THE  
WHOLE STATE  
OF LOUISIANA  
SAW

WASN'T  
EXACTLY  
SUBTLE.



"WHAT YOU DID TO  
THAT MAN AND HIS  
WIFE IN PUBLIC..."

BLOOD  
BEJAHN!  
MEACHUM!

YOU  
HAVE  
CHOSEN TO BATTLE  
THE DARK SPIRITS AND  
FOR THAT DEATH WILL  
COME TO CLAIM  
YOU!!



THE DARK  
POWERS CANNOT  
BE SILENCED!!

YOU HAVE  
MADE THEM YOUR  
ENEMY--AND YOU WILL  
SUFFER AND BLEED  
FOR THIS!!



ANIMALS?  
DISGUSTING,  
PERVERTED  
ANIMALS!!

YOU  
BRING MY  
WIFE INTO  
THIS?



BEN MEACHUM WAS AMBITIOUS AND RUNNING FOR MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS. HE NEEDED TO SHOW THE PLANT LITTLE PEOPLE THAT HE WAS A CRUSADER FOR GOOD.

SO HE CHOSE ME AS HIS TARGET

"VOODOO IS A PART OF NEW ORLEANS CULTURE. IT CAME HERE WITH THE SLAVES IN THE 1700S. IT FORMED THIS PLACE.

"I PRACTICED AND CELEBRATED MY RELIGION AND PEOPLE WERE DRAWN TO ME. MANY WERE DRAWN TO ME.



"MEACHUM AND THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS BEGAN TO FEAR MY POPULARITY.

"DO YOU KNOW THAT MARIE L'VEAL, THE ORIGINAL VOODOO QUEEN OF NEW ORLEANS, WOULD ENTERTAIN CROWDS OF 12,000 BY THE MISSISSIPPI TO WITNESS HER RITUALS.

"WE STARTED TO BUILD OUR OWN CITY, OUT IN THE SWAMP. A GLORIOUS AND SHINING PALACE OF OTHERWORLDLY WONDER. MANY HUNDREDS CAME TO JOIN US.



"PEOPLE WANT MAGIC

"IT IS ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING 'POWER.'



"MACHUM, PLAYING TO HIS  
POTENTIAL VOTERS, PROMISED HE  
WOULD HAVE ME ARRESTED ON  
CHARGES OF PUBLIC INDECENCY

"IT SEEMED OUR  
PARTIES...OFFENDED HIM  
AND HIS COZY NUCLEAR-  
FAMILY SENSIBILITIES

"HE ATTEMPTED TO HUMILIATE ME  
ON STATE TELEVISION IN A PUBLIC  
DEBATE, RAISING TRAGEDIES FROM  
MY BACKGROUND, MY BRRANT  
FATHER, MY MOTHER'S SUICIDE



"HE MOCKED  
AND REPLICED  
MY RELIGION

"I SENT HIM A  
HEAVILY CURSED  
AND ANCIENT  
VOODOO KNIFE AS A  
GIFT, A STATEMENT  
OF INTENT, A  
WEAPON OF WAR."



"I WOULDN'T  
REPEAT THAT  
LINE IN COURT,  
IF I WERE  
YOU

"THIS SECRET 'CITY'  
OF YOURS IN THE  
BAYOU, WE'LL NEED  
TO INTERVIEW YOUR  
'ASSOCIATES.'  
WHERE IS IT?"



"I WILL  
NOT REVEAL  
THIS, NOR WILL  
YOU FIND IT. IT IS  
PROTECTED BY  
GREAT MAGIC."

"YEAH,  
YEAH, CUE THE  
SPOOKY MUSIC."



"YOU ARE  
MADAME X,  
YES?"



"YOU ARE  
THE REASON  
I CAME TO THIS  
FIRM, A SISTER  
IN MAGIC..."

"YOU  
WOULD  
ENJOY OUR  
PARTIES."



I'M NOT YOUR SISTER, AND SLAUGHTERING A FEW CHICKENS AND THROWING ORBS DOES NOT MAKE YOU "MAGIC."

YOU REMEMBER THE POWER OF HOLDING CROWDS ENRAPTURED?

YOU WANT ME TO BE MAGIC...



...SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE ANY MORE.



IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO DIFFICULT FOR YOU SINCE YOU LOST YOUR STARDOM.



"I USED TO WATCH YOU ON TELEVISION, YOU KNOW, REVEALING THE FUTURE SO CONFIDENTLY.

"SO MANY FOLLOWERS..."

"NOW, I WONDER, DID YOU NOT SEE THAT THE BILLIONAIRE WOULD SUB YOU AFTER YOU ACCIDENTALLY PREDICTED THE ROBBERY ON HIS HOME?"



"HOW DID YOU NOT SEE THAT HE WOULD RUIN YOU AND YOUR CAREER WITH THAT LAWSUIT?"

THAT WILL SHAKE YOUR CONFIDENCE.

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE IN YOUR MAGIC? I WONDER.













—THANK  
GOD.



YOU KNOW HOW  
LONG I TRAINED IN  
LAW SCHOOL? HOW  
HARD I WORKED?  
THE BOOKS, ALL THE  
THINGS I HAD TO  
LEARN.

I'M DAMN GOOD  
AT LAW. THAT'S MY  
MAGIC. I TRUST IT.  
I DON'T NEED ANY  
OTHER KIND.

WHAT'S  
YOUR  
POINT?



YOU SAW A  
ZOMBIE AND  
DIDN'T TELL  
ME.

BECAUSE  
IT'S RIDICULOUS.  
ZOMBIES DON'T  
EXIST. VODOODO  
DOESN'T  
EXIST.



I MAY THINK THOSE  
CARDS ARE NOTHING BUT  
TRICKS AND COINCIDENCE,  
BUT THAT DON'T  
MATTER.

THE  
CARDS ARE  
YOUR MAGIC.  
SO TRUST  
THEM.

YOU  
DON'T  
NEED ANY  
OTHER  
KIND.



DID I SEND  
A ZOMBIE TO  
KILL HIM?

DO  
YOU THINK MY  
POWER IS THAT  
GREAT, MR.  
SALINGER?







WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN TO LAUREN  
BOGUFF IF SHE DOESN'T  
TELL US WHERE HER GORDIO  
LITTLE VOOODOO SWAMP  
CAMP IS?

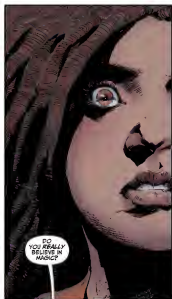
WILL SHE  
BE EXECUTED  
FOR MURDER IF SHE  
DOESN'T ACTUALLY  
START CUTTING THE  
VOODOO CRAP AND  
ACTUALLY START  
HELPING US?



WELL MS.  
BOGUFF?



SHALL WE  
SEE WHAT THE  
CARD SAYS?



DO  
YOU REALLY  
BELIEVE IN  
MAGIC?

PEARL RIVER, LOUISIANA

THANK  
YOU...



FOR  
WHAT?

REMINING ME  
OF SOMETHING.

WE'RE HERE,  
ACCORDING  
TO THE GPS  
COORDINATES.



AND WE WILL...ONCE WE'VE HAD  
A CHANCE TO ASK OUR QUESTIONS  
WE'RE HERE TO FIND EVIDENCE THAT  
WILL PROVE OUR CLIENT  
INNOCENT.

BESIDES, A  
HIDDEN VODOO SETTLEMENT  
OUT IN THE SWAMPLANDS. THESE  
ARE SIMPLE HARD-WORKING  
CRABY FOLK.













BUT ZOMBIES  
DON'T RUN...

EVERYBODY  
KNOWS THAT

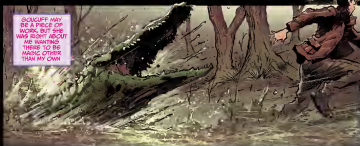


AH!!!



THANKS  
CARDS...

HELL OF  
A DIRECTION  
TO POINT  
ME IN



BOULCLIFF MAY  
BE A PIECE OF  
WORK, BUT SHE  
WAS RIGHT ABOUT  
ME WANTING  
THERE TO BE  
MADNESS OTHER  
THAN MY OWN



BUT YOU  
CAN READ ANY  
MEANS YOU  
WANT INTO THE  
THINGS THAT  
HAPPEN IN  
THIS WORLD



AAIIIEEE!!

IN THE END ALL  
THAT MATTERS  
IS THE TRUTH



YOU'RE NO  
ZOMBIE

FZZZZ



AND  
SINCE YOU'RE  
LIVING, YOU  
CAN PAY FOR THE  
MURDER OF BEN  
MEACHUM.

FZZZZ



I  
DON'T KILL  
HIM...

LAUREN USED  
HARDI GRASS HURKUP  
TO DRESS ME AS  
A ZOMBIE.



SENT ME TO  
MEACHUM'S HOUSE  
ON A FULL MOON...  
MEACHUM KNEW...  
NEIGHBORS WOULD  
SEE...



SHE'D  
SENT A ZOMBIE  
AND THEN HER  
LEGEND WOULD  
GROW

WANTS  
PLEASE DON'T  
EVER RUN OFF  
AFTER A ZOMBIE  
ALONE AGAIN

WANTS  
I JUST FOUND  
SOMEONE YOU'RE  
REALLY GONNA  
WANT TO  
TALK TO



JUNKIES RAN FOR IT. SHE DIDN'T. HERE'S ANOTHER TWENTY. TELL MY FRIEND WHAT YOU JUST TOLD ME.

HE CAME TO OUR PARTIES. HE CAME WITH LAUREN. ALL THE TIME... BEN...

BEN LOVED ME.



HE WAS GOING TO LEAVE HIS WIFE. ONCE HE BECAME MAYOR, WE WERE GOING TO RAISE OUR BABY TOGETHER.

BUT NOW HE WON'T BECAUSE HE'S DEAD... NOW!

OH MY GOD.

GOD, FEELING UPSTANDING MAYORAL CANDIDATE BEN MEACHAM, HUH?



LAUREN AND BEN, THEY CAME TO THESE PARTIES TOGETHER?

SHE BROUGHT HIM. THEY WERE TOGETHER FOR A WHILE... BUT WE ALL... SHARED.

THEY PLANNED IT. SHE'D BE THE VODOO QUEEN. HE'D ATTACK HER IN THE PRESS. SHE'D GET FAMOUS AND HE'D BE MAYOR. MORE H FOR US ALL BACK HERE MORE PARTIES.

WE WERE ALL GOING TO BE POWERFUL.





"BUT THEN SHE CAME."

"SHE FOLLOWED BEN ONE TIME WHEN HE CAME TO SEE ME."



"THE STUPID WIFE."



"SUSAN! WAIT... PLEASE!!"



"SHE'S GENUINELY GOD-FEARIN'. SEES HIM AS A LADDER WITH THE DEVIL, A LIAR SEEKING POWER."

"ON THE NIGHT SHE WAS STAYING IN THE HOLIDAY HOME NEAR LACOMBE, PUT THE KIDS TO BED, DROVE BACK TO NEW ORLEANS..."

"LACOMBE'S ONLY AN HOUR'S DRIVE. USED THE WOODCOCK ISSUE THAT GOUNCEFF SENT MEACHAM IN THE MAIL."



"MADE HIM AND EVERYTHING HE'D PRETENDED TO STAND FOR JUST..."

"...DISAPPEAR."







I'M  
GETTING  
ANOTHER  
VISION...

SALINGER?



WHAT THE HELL KIND  
OF FUTURE IS THIS?

writer: **MARK WAHLBERG** artist: **TREASON BARRISONE**  
colorist: **ANTHONY FANTALE** letterer: **SCOTT LINDQUIST** cover artist: **FRANK MILLER**  
associate editor: **DAVID GARDNER** editor: **DAVE KATZ**

**THE  
END**

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